(c) the terms and conditions laid down?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) INTELSAT is an international inter-governmental cooperative organisation with 133 member nations providing telecommunication service for different regions of the world. India is the tenth largest stock holder in INTELSAT. INTELSAT owns and operates the world's most extensive global communications satellite system. On January 30, 1995, Department of Space (DOS), Government of India entered into an agreement with the Washington-based International Telecommunications Satellite Organisation (INTELSAT) for the lease of a portion of the capacity (11 transponders of 36 M Hz equivalent capacity) on INSAT-2E for INTELSAT usage for providing telecommunications service to its customers. This long-term lease agreement was approved by the Government of India and the Board of Governors of INTELSAT.

(c) The contract is a 'lease' type of contract under which INTELSAT will be paying DOS approximately US$ 100 million (about Rs. 350 crores at the present exchange rates) over a ten year period starting from 1998. The title remains with DOS throughout the contract and there is no transfer of property to INTELSAT. Clauses related to termination by either party for various reasons, mutual indemnification etc. have been built into the contract.

[Translation]

Implementation of MPLADS

61. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of STATE FOR PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 554 dated September 11, 1996 and state :

(a) whether the factors responsible for delay in the implementation of the schemes sanctioned by the Government have been identified;

(b) whether it is also true that the amount sanctioned under MPs Local Area Development Scheme for the last year has been withheld and even after the recommendation of new MPs, these programmes have not been started; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The factors responsible for delay in implementation of the scheme have already been given under part (c) of the reply to the Starred Question No. 554 dated 11.9.1996 referred to by the Hon'ble MP.

(b) and (c). It is not correct that the amount sanctioned under MPLADS for the last year has been withheld. Detailed instructions have been issued to all the District Collectors/DCs/DMs in regard to the utilisation of the funds in balance with them as on 31.3.96. Accordingly, all the works which were on-going or which were sanctioned but not started prior to the commencement of the Model Code of Conduct for Elections have been allowed to be continued/started and completed.

The District Collectors have been further instructed vide this Department's letter dated 18.7.96 to process the recommendations given by the new MPs without waiting for the release of the funds. Orders sanctioning the release of the first instalment of Rs. 50 lakh per MP for the year 1996-97 were also issued on 1.8.96.

[English]

Food Processing Industries

62. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Food Processing Industries set-up in Karnataka particularly in Kolar district during the last 3 years; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) and (b). Since Food Processing Industries are both in the organised and unorganised sectors, information with respect to all food processing units statewise is not maintained in the Ministry.

Rural Electrification

63. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hardoi) : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Time to streamline rural electrification" appeared in the 'Hindu' dated August 27, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item highlights the need for State Electricity Boards to earn 3% Rate of Return in order to ensure reliable power. It also indicates the need for

Government to arrange soft loans through Rural Electrification Corporation and other Banks and Financial institutions.

(c) The Union Government provides funds for rural electrification through Rural Electrification Corporation at 12% rate of interest for a period of 20 to 30 years. This rate of interest is cheaper than on the loans extended by the Union Government to other Power generating companies.

In order to improve the financial performance of the State Electricity Boards, the Government of India has issued guidelines which inter-alia include improvement in plant load factor of thermal stations by 3% annually, reduction of T & D losses by 1% per annum, tariff rationalisation etc. These guidelines are only indicative and the States have the option to follow any other route to make the SEBs commercially and financially viable.

Fruits and Vegetables

64. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :
SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the loss of fruits and vegetables every year due to non-availability of food processing industries; and

(b) the steps taken to ensure full utilisation of fruits and vegetables production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) Although no specific survey has been conducted to assess the loss or decay of fruits and vegetables for want of processing, the net unutilised quantity due to inadequacy of post-harvest infrastructure and processing facilities, may not exceed 5%.

(b) The Government provides assistance under its various Plan Schemes, to create infrastructural facilities, additional processing capacity, market development etc. with a view to increase utilisation of fruits and vegetables.

Employment Schemes

65. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the amount provided by the Union Government to Gujarat for different urban employment schemes during 1995-96 has been utilised;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the amount is likely to be utilised by the State Government on the implementation of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Two Centrally sponsored employment schemes viz., (i) Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP) are being implemented in the State of Gujarat. The State Government of Gujarat has reported that the amount provided by the Union Government under these schemes during 1995-96 has been partly (about 50%) utilised.

(b) Because of the 74th Amendment in the Constitution of India, the State Govt. had taken up the matter for reconstituting the Municipalities and Nagar Panchayats during the year 1995-96. Therefore, no progress has made under the Scheme of Housing and Shelter Upgradation (SHASU) and Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME), hence the unutilized portion. But the progress under the Scheme of Urban Wage Employment (SUWE) has been more successful.

(c) The remaining amount is likely to be spent before the end of the current financial year i.e. 1996-97.

Unauthorised Construction

66. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether action has been taken against all unauthorised construction in Government flats and encroachment in Horticulture Park, CPWD, D-Block, Type-II, Netaji Nagar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The CPWD has reported unauthorised constructions in eight Type-II flats in D-Block, Netaji Nagar. Show cause Notices have been issued by the Directorate of Estates to all the allottees under the Allotment Rules. Encroachment in Horticulture Park in D-Block, Netaji Nagar has since been removed by the CPWD.

(c) Does not arise.

Drought Prone Areas Programme

67. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have made a